

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 04490 141059Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 EA-12 FRB-01 INR-10 IO-14 NSAE-00
ICA-20 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01
AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 PA-02 STR-07 /146 W
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R 140945Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3159
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USINT HAVANA

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 4490

ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID NL TS CU PE JM
SUBJECT: DUTCH CONSIDERING REDUCED AID STATUS FOR TUNISIA,
CUBA, COLOMBIA, PERU, AND JAMAICA

REF: A) THE HAGUE 2594, B) THE HAGUE 822

1. NRC HANDELSBLAD CARRIED STORY AUGUST 9 STATING MINISTRY
OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION INTENDS TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO
CABINET AND PARLIAMENT LATER THIS MONTH CALLING FOR JANUARY
1, 1979 REMOVAL OF TUNISIA, CUBA, PERU, COLOMBIA AND JAMAICA
FROM THEIR SPECIAL STATUS AS TARGET COUNTRIES FOR DUTCH DEVELOP-
MENT ASSISTANCE.

2. COMMENT: GNP PER CAPITA FOR EACH OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES
EXCEEDS CURRENTLY ACCEPTED DUTCH TARGET MAXIMUM OF 550
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DOLLARS WHICH WOULD LEAVE EX-COLONY SURINAM AS ONLY TARGET
COUNTRY WITH A HIGHER PER CAPITA GNP. WHILE HANDELSBLAD
ATTRIBUTED PROPOSED REMOVAL OF CUBA TO LATTER'S INVOLVE-
MENT IN AFRICA, CUBA CLEARLY IS ALSO EXCLUDABLE ON BASIS
OF GNP CRITERION. PROPOSED REMOVAL OF CUBA HAS ALSO BEEN
FORESHADOWED FOR SOME TIME. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
MINISTER DE KONING, IN DISCUSSING AID POLICY BEFORE FIRST

CHAMBER EARLY IN MAY, REJECTED LIBERAL PARTY REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE AID TO CUBA IMMEDIATELY BUT SAID DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH THAT COUNTRY WOULD STOP AS OF JANUARY 1, 1979 (REFTEL A). PM VAN AGT TOOK A SIMILAR STAND LAST FEBRUARY (REFTEL B). THE PROPOSED REMOVAL OF TUNISIA, PERU, COLOMBIA, AND JAMAICA AS MAJOR AID RECIPIENTS WOULD BE A NEW DEPARTURE REFLECTING GROWING DUTCH DESIRE TO HELP ONLY THE MOST NEEDY COUNTRIES. IN FACT PRESS INDICATES THAT MINISTRY WAS THINKING OF LOWERING THE AID THRESHOLD FOR TARGET COUNTRIES TO A PER CAPITA GNP OF 375 DOLLARS BUT USED HIGHER FIGURE OF 550 DOLLARS TO AVOID EXCLUDING TOO MANY NEEDY COUNTRIES. DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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